Amdt. Dated: July 6, 2005

Reply to Office Action of April 21, 2005

**Amendments to the Claims** 

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims:** 

1 (currently amended): A paper feeder of an image forming apparatus having an

image forming unit to form an image on a printing paper, comprising:

a [first, a second, and a third] plurality of paper feeding paths along which a printing

paper is fed;

a main conveyance path disposed between an image forming unit and the [first, second,

and third] paper feeding paths; and

a main feed roller to convey the printing paper from the [first, second, third] paper

feeding paths to the image forming unit of the image forming apparatus through the main

conveyance\_path;; and

a connecting conveyance path formed between the main conveyance path and the outer

circumference of the main feed roller to guide the printing paper, which is conveyed from the

paper feeding paths along the outer circumference of the main feed roller, to the main

conveyance path,

wherein the [first, second, and third] paper feeding paths are disposed along an outer

circumference of the main feed roller.

2 (currently amended):

The paper feeder of claim 1, [further comprising:

a connecting conveyance path formed between the main conveyance path and the outer

circumference of the main feed roller to guide the printing paper, which is conveyed from the

first, second, and third paper feeding paths alon the outer circumference of the main feed roller,

to the main conveyance path,]

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wherein the [first, second, third] paper feeding paths are confluent along the connecting conveyance path by the main feed roller, and the connecting conveyance path is connected to the main conveyance path which guides the printing paper to the image forming unit.

3 (currently amended): The paper feeder of claim-2\_1, further comprising:

a sub feed roller rotatably disposed on the connecting conveyance path between the main feed roller and the main conveyance path to feed the printing paper, which is conveyed by the main feed roller along the connecting conveyance path, to the image forming unit through the main conveyance path.

4 (original): The paper feeder of claim 3, wherein the sub feed roller adjusts and aligns a position of the printing paper which is conveyed along the connecting conveyance path.

5 (original): The paper feeder of claim 4, further comprising:

a paper sensor disposed on the connecting conveyance path and between the main feed roller and the sub feed roller to determine whether the printing paper being conveyed is a transparent material.

6 (previously amended): The paper feeder of claim 3, further comprising:

a pinch roller to assist the conveyance of the printing paper with the outer circumference of the sub feed roller.

7 (currently amended): The paper feeder of claim 1, further comprising:

a first pinch roller disposed in a first exit part of the [first] paper feeding [path] <u>paths</u> to feed the printing paper with the outer circumference of the main feed roller; and

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a second pinch roller disposed at second and third exit parts of the [second and third] paper feeding paths to feed the printing paper with the outer circumference of the main feed roller.

8 (currently amended): The paper feeder of claim 1, wherein the paper feeding paths comprises a first, a second, and a third paper feeding paths, and the first paper feeding path comprises:

a cassette conveyance path to guide the printing paper fed from at least two paper feeding cassettes to a first portion of the outer circumference of the main feed roller.

9 (previously amended): The paper feeder of claim 8, wherein the second paper feeding path comprises:

a tray conveyance path to guide the printing paper fed from a manual paper feeding tray to a second portion of the outer circumference of the main feed roller.

10 (previously amended): The paper feeder of claim 9, wherein the third paper feeding path comprises:

a return conveyance path along which the printing paper is returned to a third portion of the outer circumference of the main feed roller, to provide double-sided printing.

11 (currently amended): The paper feeder of claim 1, wherein:

the paper feeding paths comprises a first, a second, and a third paper feeding paths; and

the first paper feeding path comprises a first and a second sub-paths having a first exit part disposed on a first portion of the outer circumference of the main feed roller to guide the printing paper fed from a first and a second paper feeding cassettes to the first portion of the outer circumference of the main feed roller, respectively; the second paper feeding path

comprises a tray conveyance path having a second exit part disposed on a second portion of the outer circumference of the main feed roller to guide the printing paper fed from a manual paper feeding tray to the second portion of the outer circumference of the main feed roller; and the third paper feeding path comprises a return conveyance path having the third exit part disposed on a third portion of the outer circumference of the main feed roller to guide the printing paper fed from—a manual paper feeding tray the main conveyance path to the third portion of the outer circumference of the main feed roller to provide double-sided printing.

12 (currently amended): The paper feeder of claim 1, wherein the paper feeding paths comprise a first, a second, and a third paper feeding paths, and the first, second, and third paper feeding paths further comprise:

a first, a second, and a third exits disposed on a first, a second, and a third portion of the outer circumference of the main feed roller, respectively.

13 (previously amended): A paper feeder of an image forming apparatus having an image forming unit to form an image on a printing paper, comprising:

a main feed roller conveying a printing paper to an image forming unit of an image forming apparatus through a main conveyance path;

a connecting conveyance path connected between the main conveyance path and the main feed roller to convey the printing paper from the main feed roller to the main conveyance path;

a plurality of paper feeding paths disposed along an outer circumference of the main feed roller, and being confluent along the connecting conveyance path by the main feed roller;

a sub feed roller rotatably disposed on the connecting conveyance path to adjust and align a position of the printing paper which passes along the connecting conveyance path; and

first, second and third pinch rollers being in tight contact with outer circumferences of the main feed roller and the sub feed roller to assist the conveyance of the printing paper,

wherein the paper feeding paths comprise,

first and second paper feeding paths disposed on first and second portions of the outer circumference of the main feed roller to feed the printing paper from first and second paper feeding cassettes to the first and second portions of the outer circumference of the main feed roller,

a third paper feeding path disposed on a third portion of the outer circumference of the main feed roller to feed the printing paper from a manual paper feeding tray to the third portion of the outer circumference of the main feed roller, and

a fourth paper feeding path disposed on a fourth portion of the outer circumference of the main feed roller to feed the printing paper returned from a return path to the fourth portion of the outer circumference of the main feed roller to provide double-sided printing.

14 (currently amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image forming unit to form a desired image on a printing paper;

a main conveyance path to guide the printing paper to the image forming unit;

a paper feeding unit comprising at least one paper feeding cassette and a paper feeding tray each storing a plurality of printing paper; and

a paper feeder to convey the printing paper toward the main conveyance path, wherein the paper feeder comprises, comprising at least three paper feeding paths along which the printing paper fed from the paper feeding unit is guided, and a main feed roller to convey the printing paper from the at least three paper feeding paths to the image forming unit through the main conveyance path,

wherein the at least three paper feeding paths <u>are</u> disposed along at least three portions of an outer circumference of the main feed roller, <u>and the paper feeder further comprises a connecting conveyance path along which the at least three paper feeding paths are confluent by the main feed roller, the connecting conveyance path being connected with the main conveyance path.</u>

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15 (canceled):

16 (currently amended): The image forming apparatus of claim—15 14, wherein the

paper feeder further comprises:

a sub feed roller rotatably disposed on the connecting conveyance path to adjust and

align a position of the printing paper which passes along the connecting conveyance path.

17 (original): The image forming apparatus of claim 16, wherein the paper feeder

further comprises:

a paper sensor disposed on the connecting conveyance path and between the main

feed roller and the sub feed roller to determine whether the printing paper being conveyed is

transparent.

18 (previously amended): The image forming apparatus of claim 16, further

comprising:

a pinch roller to assist the conveyance of the printing paper by rotating in tight contact

with an outer circumference of the sub feed roller.

19 (previously amended): The image forming apparatus of claim 14, further

comprising:

a pinch roller to rotate in tight contact with the outer circumference of the main feed roller

to feed the printing paper from the at least three paper feeding paths to the image forming unit

through the main conveyance path, and disposed at an exit part of one of the at least three

paper feeding paths.

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20 (previously amended): The image forming apparatus of claim 14, wherein the three portions comprise first, second, and third portions disposed to be spaced-apart from one another along the outer circumference of the main feed roller, the at least three paper feeding paths comprise:

a cassette conveyance path to guide the printing paper fed from at least one paper feeding cassette to the first portion of the outer circumference of the main feed roller.

21 (previously amended): The image forming apparatus of claim 20, wherein the at least three paper feeding paths further comprise:

a tray conveyance path to guide the printing paper fed from a manual paper feeding tray to the second portion of the outer circumference of the main feed roller, the second portion disposed between the first portion and the third portion.

22 (previously amended): The image forming apparatus of claim 20, wherein the at least three paper feeding paths further comprise:

a return conveyance path to guide the printing paper returned from a return path to the third portion of the outer circumference of the main feed roller to provide double-sided printing.

23 (previously amended): The image forming apparatus of claim 14, wherein the three portions comprise first, second, and third portions disposed to be spaced-apart from one another along the outer circumference of the main feed roller in order, and the at least three paper feeding paths further comprise:

a tray conveyance path to guide the printing paper fed from a manual paper feeding tray to the second portion of the outer circumference of the main feed roller.

24 (previously amended): The image forming apparatus of claim 14, wherein the at least three paper feeding paths further comprise:

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a cassette conveyance path to guide the printing paper fed from at least one paper feeding cassette to the outer circumference of the main feed roller;

a tray conveyance path to guide the printing paper fed from a manual paper feeding tray to the outer circumference of the main feed roller; and

a returning conveyance path along which the printing paper is returned to the outer circumference of the main feed roller to provide double-sided printing.